GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4707
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2000
PURCHASE OF MIG-FIGHTERS FROM RUSSIA
SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have committed to or are negotiating for purchase of a number of new version of MIG fighter aircraft from Russia, even the prototype of which has not yet been tested, along with an aircraft carrier being procured from that country as reported in the Indian Express of July 30, 2000; and

(b) if so, the stage at which the negotiations stand at present and the details of the contemplated agreement and the salient features of the aircraft and the aircraft carrier?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) & (b): The Government of the Russian Federation have offered to gift Admiral 'Gorshkov', an aircraft carrier to India. The ship will, however, need to be repaired, modified and modernised at the cost of Government of India before it can be inducted into the service of the Navy. The ship will have a standard displacement of 34,000 metric tonnes and will be able to operate a mix of aircrafts and will provide integral air power to the Carrier Task Force at Sea. MIG 29 K aircraft is being considered as a deck based aircraft for operating from the Ship. No final decision in the matter has, however, been taken. No negotiations with the Russians for acquisition of MIG-29 K aircraft have been held.